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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,800	10/03/2003	Todd P. Guay	oracle01.026	3882

7590 09/21/2007  
Gordon E. Nelson  
57 Central St.  
P.O. Box 782  
Rowley, MA 01969

EXAMINER
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AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2166

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/21/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/678,800

Applicant(s)

GUAY ET AL.

Examiner

Navneet K. Ahluwalia

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2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**


1. In view of the Pre-Brief Appeal filed on 06/21/2007, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

  
SPE 2169

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 – 8 and 25 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bakalash et al. ('Bakalash' herein after) (US 2002/0029207 A1).

With respect to claim 1,

Bakalash discloses a method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method comprising the steps of: making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that may have a plurality of members and deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof (paragraphs 55 – 57 and 73 – 74, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 2,

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Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of: deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry (paragraphs 216, 258, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 3,

Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the set (paragraphs 41, 71 and 94, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 4,

Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 3 wherein: The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are separated by a separator character (Figure 10A-B, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 5,

Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of members in the set (paragraphs 41, 71 and 94, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 6,

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Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 5 wherein: the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element (paragraph 59 – 62, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 7,

Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are time values (Figures 17A, 18A-B, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 8,

Bakalash discloses the method set forth in claim 1 wherein: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are location values (paragraph 59 – 62 and Figures 17A, 18A-B, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 25,

Bakalash discloses a data storage device, characterized in that: the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the

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method comprising the steps of: making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that is capable of having a plurality of members; and deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof (paragraphs 55 – 57 and 73 – 74, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 26,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the method further comprises the step of deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry (paragraphs 216, 258, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 27,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the set (paragraphs 41, 71 and 94, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 28,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that: The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are separated by a separator character (Figure 10A-B, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 29,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of members in the set (paragraphs 41, 71 and 94, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 30,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that: the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element (paragraph 59 – 62, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 31,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the set are derived are time values (Figures 17A, 18A-B, Bakalash).

With respect to claim 32,

Bakalash discloses the data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that: in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which



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the members of the set are derived are location values (paragraph 59 – 62 and Figures 17A, 18A-B, Bakalash).

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**Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*Navneet*

Navneet K. Ahluwalia  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2166

Dated: 09/15/2007

*Navneet K. Ahluwalia*  
*SPF 2169*